

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated.

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (New) A method comprising:

notifying an occupant of a vehicle of an occurrence of a detected sound outside of the vehicle;

wherein the detected sound is a non-audible signal.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the detected sound is associated with an emergency vehicle.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the detected sound is associated with a security system.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the detected sound is associated with a toll booth.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the detected sound is associated with a cell phone communication.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant comprises disabling a sound system in the vehicle.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant comprises disabling a portable communication device in the vehicle.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising filtering the detected sound to determine a particular characteristic of the detected sound.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein filtering the detected sound comprises processing the detected sound with a processing unit.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein processing the detected sound comprises converting the detected sound to a digital representation.

31. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant includes broadcasting a prerecorded message.

32. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant includes enabling a warning indicator.

33. (New) A method comprising:

detecting an occurrence of a particular sound; and

informing an occupant of a vehicle of the occurrence of the particular sound;

wherein the particular sound is a non-audible signal.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein detecting the occurrence of the particular sound includes:

determining if at least a portion of the particular sound comprises a predetermined characteristic.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the predetermined characteristic is associated with an emergency vehicle.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein determining if at least the portion of the particular sound comprises the predetermined characteristic comprises converting the portion of the sound external to the vehicle to a digital representation and determining if the digital representation includes the predetermined characteristic.

37. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein informing the occupant of the vehicle of the occurrence of the particular sound comprises disabling a sound system.

38. (New) A system comprising:

a sound detection system coupled to a vehicle to capture at least a portion of a sound; and
a processing unit to determine if the portion of the sound comprises a predetermined
characteristic;
wherein the sound is a non-audible signal.

39. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the predetermined characteristic is
associated with an emergency vehicle.

40. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the predetermined characteristic is
associated with a toll booth.